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LETTER DATED 11 MAY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you some information concerning the adverse consequences which the aggression perpetrated by the alliance under the cover of international legitimacy has had on health services and education in Iraq. Among other adverse consequences, there has been an increase in infant mortality in all age groups.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Children of all ages have always suffered the long-term consequences of war and conflict. In its report on the health of Iraqi children which it published in October 1991, the Harvard team studying world health noted that conflicts had always been considered detrimental to the health of children, and that the Gulf war, combined with the economic embargo and the insecurity in which the population lived, had also had detrimental effects.

Since the imposition of a comprehensive economic embargo against Iraq, infant mortality rates have increased considerably in a very short space of time, on account of malnutrition and a shortage of basic medicine. Moreover, the lack of drinking water and the catastrophic health conditions prevailing in the country have led to a proliferation of illnesses very closely linked to such factors, including cholera, typhoid and dysentery.

The tables below illustrate the effects which the embargo against Iraq has had on mortality rates among children under the age of 5 and among adults over the age of 50. They indicate, for selected months, the number of deaths that occurred before and after the imposition of the embargo.

Children under the age of 5

Month	Year	Malnutrition	Diarrhoeal diseases	Anaemia
July	1989	138	142	98
	1992	1 116	873	324
August	1989	90	159	35
	1992	923	1 644	527
October	1989	73	706	93
	1992	717	1 063	903
November	1989	52	96	110
	1992	592	1 102	1 272
December	1989	81	101	117
	1992	872	1 090	1 260
January	1989	93	121	139
	1993	1 944	1 380	1 789
February	1989	94	104	158
	1993	1 783	976	1 293

Adults over the age of 50

Month	Year	Hypertension	Diabetes	Malignant Tumours
July	1989	122	62	246
	1992	253	147	589
August	1989	81	81	316
	1992	165	129	424
October	1989	123	65	206
	1992	266	132	432
November	1989	113	87	222
	1992	213	176	411
December	1989	82	90	347
	1992	123	130	519
January	1990	104	83	267
	1993	1 109	966	749
February	1990	90	71	318
	1993	262	172	731